

and
a ventilation port configured for connecting to a ventilator, said ventilation port disposed so that a longitudinal axis of said ventilation port is at an angle greater than 90 degrees relative to a longitudinal axis of said distal port;

a proximal port providing access through said manifold to said distal port;

an adapter having an adapter component rotatably mounted on said manifold at said proximal port, said adapter component further comprising at least a first and a second access port defined therethrough; and

wherein said rotatable adapter component is rotatable between first and second positions such that in said first position said first access port is in axial alignment and fluid communication with said proximal port and said second access port is out of alignment with said proximal port, and in said second position said second access port is in axial alignment and fluid communication with said proximal port and said first access port is out of alignment with said proximal port and a surgical instrument is prevented from being inserted through said first access port and into said distal port when said rotatable adapter is in said second position; and

a channel defined in said rotatable adapter component between said first and second access ports such that said first and second access ports are in fluid communication with each other.

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2. (Cancelled)
 3. The assembly as in claim 1, wherein said rotatable adapter component is rotatable to a third position wherein neither of said first nor second access ports are in axial alignment with said proximal port.

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4. (Amended) The assembly as in claim 1, wherein said adapter further comprises a stator member having a stator plate, said stator member configured on said manifold at said proximal port and defining an access through said proximal port, said rotatable adapter component comprising a rotor member rotatably mounted to said stator plate, said first and second access ports defined in said rotor member.
 5. The assembly as in claim 4, further comprising a seal between said rotor member and said stator member.
 6. The assembly as in claim 5, wherein said seal is a friction-fit gasket seal.
 7. The assembly as in claim 4, further comprising a grip enhancing surface defined on an outer circumferential surface of said rotor member.
 8. The assembly as in claim 7, wherein said grip enhancing surface comprises a grip ring mounted on said rotor member, said grip ring further comprising a plurality of radially extending protrusions.
 9. The assembly as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said ventilation port and said distal port comprise a swivel connector mated therewith.
 10. The assembly as in claim 1, further comprising a first catheter removably connected to one of said first and second access ports.
 11. The assembly as in claim 1, further comprising a catheter connected to each of said first and second access ports.
 12. The assembly as in claim 1, further comprising a suction catheter connected to said first access port, said suction catheter having a suction tube movable through said adapter and said manifold into the patient's artificial airway.

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13. The assembly as in claim 12, further comprising a lavage port in communication with said first access port.

14. The assembly as in claim 12, wherein said lavage port is configured on said access port.

15. The assembly as in claim 12, wherein said lavage port is configured on said suction catheter.

16. The assembly as in claim 12, further comprising a channel defined in said adapter between said first and second access ports such that during a lavage operation air is drawn from said second access port through said channel and into said first access port.

AS 17. (Amended) A respiratory care assembly for providing multiple accesses to a patient's artificial airway, said assembly comprising:

a manifold having a distal port configured for connecting directly to an artificial airway, and a ventilation port configured for connecting to a ventilator;

said manifold further comprising a proximal port providing access through said manifold to said distal port;

an adapter movably mounted on said manifold at said proximal port, said adapter further comprising at least a first access port and a second access port defined therethrough, said adapter movable between first and second positions such that in said first position said first access port is in axial alignment and fluid communication with said proximal port and said second access port is out of alignment with said proximal port, and in said second position said second access port is in axial alignment

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and fluid communication with said proximal port and said first access port is out of alignment with said proximal port;

a suction catheter connectable to said first access port, said suction catheter having a suction tube movable through said adapter and said manifold into the patient's artificial airway when said adapter is in said first position and blocked from moving through said adapter and said manifold when in said second position; and

a channel defined in said adapter between said first and second access ports such that during a lavage cleaning operation of said suction catheter, air is drawn from said second access port through said channel and into said first access port.

18. The assembly as in claim 17, wherein said ventilation port is disposed so that a longitudinal axis of said ventilation port is at an angle greater than 90 degrees relative to a longitudinal axis of said distal port.

19. The assembly as in claim 17, wherein said adapter is rotatably mounted on said manifold.

20. The assembly as in claim 19, wherein said adapter is rotatable to a third position wherein neither of said first nor second access ports are in axial alignment with said proximal port.

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21. (Amended) The assembly as in claim 19, wherein said adapter comprises a stator member having a stator plate, said stator member configured on said manifold at said proximal port and defining an access through said proximal port, and a rotor member rotatably mounted to said stator plate, said first and second access ports defined in said rotor member.

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22. The assembly as in claim 21, further comprising a seal between said rotor member and said stator member.
23. The assembly as in claim 22, wherein said seal is a friction-fit gasket seal.
24. The assembly as in claim 21, further comprising a grip enhancing surface defined on an outer circumferential surface of said rotor member.
25. The assembly as in claim 24, wherein said grip enhancing surface comprises a grip ring mounted on said rotor member, said grip ring further comprising a plurality of radially extending protrusions.
26. The assembly as in claim 17, wherein at least one of said ventilation port and said distal port comprise a swivel connector mated therewith.
27. The assembly as in claim 17, further comprising an additional catheter connectable to said second access port for performing an additional medical procedure through said manifold.
28. The assembly as in claim 17, further comprising a lavage port in communication with said first access port.
29. The assembly as in claim 28, wherein said lavage port is configured on said access port.
30. The assembly as in claim 28, wherein said lavage port is configured on said suction catheter.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended pages 7 and 14 of the specification in order to correct certain typographical errors. Applicants submit that the amendments to the